



HAPPY 2023

Bluesletter

CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

www.charlottebluessociety.orgcltbluessociety@gmail.com[@cltbluessociety](https://twitter.com/cltbluessociety)

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*Happy New Year to all our members and supporters. We appreciate you.
Thanks for helping to Keep the Blues Alive!*

Blues Jam Guidelines are posted to the www.charlottebluessociety.org downloads page.

Sign-up is required at the show. While there is no pre-registration, Sign-up when you arrive!

**The next jam will follow the Shana Blake show on Feb 5.
There is no Jam in January!**

BLUES SUNDAYS AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE.

Two amazing acts

Aaron "Woody" Wood

Blues deLuxe band

With special guests Melissa McKinney
and Patrick French

Sunday Jan. 8,

Doors at 6:30, Show at 7

Neighborhood Theatre, Charlotte, NC

Tickets available in advance from
www.Maxxmusic.com

Member discount code emailed Dec 2022.

Advance \$5 Members, \$10 General
Admission,
\$15 DOS



The SHANA BLAKE BAND

Shana Blake Band followed by the first Blues Jam of the New Year
 Sunday Feb. 5,
 Doors at 6:30, Show at 7
 Neighborhood Theatre, Charlotte, NC

Tickets available in advance from Maxxmusic.com

Member discount code emailed Dec 2022.

\$5 Members (card required)

\$12 General Public (Advance)

\$15 Day of Show



And the 2022-23 Challenge Winners are...

Solo

Aaron "Woody" Wood

From Asheville, NC is straight up Cosmic Appalachian Soul.



Band

Blues deLuxe band

Columbia, SC based 4 piece blues band. John Hartness, DJ May, Rickey Ramsey and James Casey



Read on to learn more about the winners, contestants and event. Going to the IBC in Memphis? Be sure to find and support your 2023 contestants!



January 8, 2023 brings the winners back for a full show.

Let's send them off to Memphis in Style.

Mark your calendars NOW.

Donations will be accepted as we strive to increase our sponsorships to these Carolina musicians.

Can't attend but want to contribute? [On-line donations](#) accepted via PayPal.



WINNING ACTS

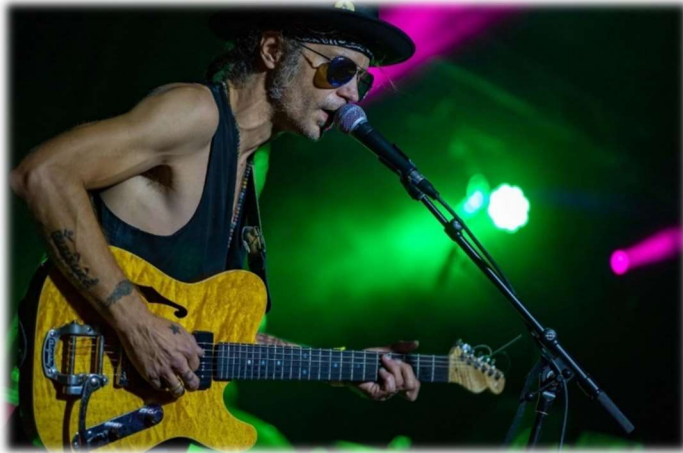
Best Solo/Duo Artist

And our judges said...

This man can sing! Very unique voice with lots of feeling. Skillful fingerpicking and amazing slide. He mesmerized the crowd with great balance and selections.

Aaron "Woody" Wood is quite the renaissance man, embodying the energy and mystique of American music. Carved from the foothills of the Piedmont,

rolled and tumbled through the Delta mud and washed in The Mississippi, Aaron “Woody” Wood is straight up Cosmic Appalachian Soul. With a background as diverse as his music, he consistently delivers the soul, power and energy that have renowned him as a musician’s musician.



“Woody” Wood continues to carry his art farther by giving attention and respect to the artists that have influenced and shaped his music, allowing him to keep that Spirit burning forward. Focusing on songwriting and new styles of guitar playing, “Woody” Wood’s inventive approach to musical style and the raw emotion he delivers in his songwriting creates a cohesive sound that is hard to find but heavily sought out by music lovers everywhere.

www.aaronwoodywood.com

Best Band

Our panel of 3 judges praised the great bass line and harp rhythm. Vocals are great together. This is a pro outfit with good audience interaction, transitions and story-telling. Slide guitar had good variety. Nice tone from the sunburst strat.

Blues Deluxe is a Columbia South Carolina based 4-piece blues band offering a rich mix of creative original songs, hidden blues gems and interesting takes on blues classics. You will be entertained as Blues Deluxe has a mission to keep your foot tapping and to ensure you do not hear the same songs you heard from the last bar you visited. Although you may not hear Mojo Working, trust us...it will work on you!

www.bluesdeluxesouthcarolina.com



John Hartness: Guitars and Vocals Blythewood, South Carolina

Introduced to music at a young age, John embraced blues and roots music. With early inspirations from Robert Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy and John Lee Hooker, he blended his finger style guitar playing with the likes of Doc Watson and Chet Atkins into a unique acoustic style all his own. Later on, John also embraced the 'Electric' blues and studied the works of the masters, Muddy Waters, Albert King, Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan. John attributes his resurgence into music from the inspiration and encouragement of Mac Arnold and all the members of Plate Full O' Blues.

DJ May: Harmonica and Vocals Ontario, Canada



David `DJ` grew up in northern Canada and is new to the Columbia music scene. He is a self taught harp player and draws inspiration from many of the greats Sonny Boy, Little Walter, George Smith, Jason Ricci as well as some little known personal influences like Charlie Moore, Dave Thompson and the incomparable Nate Myers. He lives by the belief that if there is blues your heart, there is heart in your blues.

Rick Ramsey: Bass Guitar Irmo, South Carolina



Ricky Ramsey has been a musician for over 40 years, a bass guitar player for at least 35 years. Prior to playing bass guitar he played the drums until attending a Larry Graham concert where he fell in love with the bass guitar. As an experienced musician, he has played with several local groups. Over the past 30 years he's been playing for his church.

James Bubba Casey: Percussion Columbia, South Carolina



James was born in Columbia South Carolina and grew up listening to Doo Whop, Blues, R&B, Rock & Roll and Jazz music. His first musical aspiration was to play the saxophone because most songs back in the day had soulful saxophone solos in them. Unfortunately, when he got to Jr. High School and signed up to take band, all of the school's saxophones had been rented out. With his father unwilling to fork out money for a sax and the only instrument available for rent was a drum. James was a drummer and has been drumming ever since. His first gig with a band came in high school when his former Jr. High band teacher called on him to fill in for his drummer who had gotten sick. Having never played with a live band before, he really enjoyed that experience and the rest is history.

James has played with some popular groups in the midlands spanning the seventies and eighties such as Julius Cobb, Gerald Isreal & the Soul Ambassadors, Cornelius Crawford and the Persians. James learned very early on, that the biggest contribution a drummer can make is to keep the groove in the pocket.



IBC will be held January 24-28, 2023 on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee!

The **International Blues Challenge** represents the worldwide search for blues bands and solo/duo blues performers ready for the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break. The world's largest gathering of blues musicians will take place on Beale Street, with over 20 clubs hosting the challengers and fans. In addition to featuring these final rounds of the prestigious blues music competition, the IBC event week will offer seminars, showcases, master classes, film screenings, networking events, book signings, and receptions for blues societies, fans, and professionals.

This year's Artists are listed on the blues.org website and at [this link](#). It's going to be a great competition.

Tickets at Blues.org

Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Awards

Each year, The Blues Foundation presents the Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the Blues world. The Blues Foundation will present the 2023 KBA Awards at a recognition brunch as part of the International Blues Challenge (IBC) weekend of events.

Unlike the Blues Music Awards, the award recognizing the past year's best in recordings and performances voted on by thousands of The Blues Foundation's members, the KBAs are awarded to non-performers strictly on the basis of merit by a select panel of Blues professionals. The committee generally refrains from awarding the KBA to an individual or organization more than once. Instead, a new winner is selected each year, except in rare cases when a significant period of time has elapsed since the first award.

Affiliated organizations, past KBA recipients, and members of The Blues Foundation's Board of Directors are eligible to submit nominations. If you know a deserving person, seek out one of those who are authorized to nominate and help them make the submission.

Recipients of the 2023 Keeping the Blues Alive Awards are:

THE LITTLE VILLAGE FOUNDATION

The Little Village Foundation, formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2015 by Grammy-winning keyboardist Jim Pugh, focuses on seeking out, recording, and promoting artists whose music has not yet been discovered outside of their communities. Among the 51 recordings released by Little Village, the majority are blues related. CDs nominated for recent Blues Music Awards include albums by Tia Carroll, Memphis Sounds and Sonny Green.

JOHN GUREGIAN

For more than 40 years, John Guregian has been spinning the blues on his radio show, "Blues Deluxe," hosted on WUML-FM in Lowell, Mass. Starting in 1979, when Guregian was still a student, the show aired for four hours on Saturdays. This led to a stint as blues director for the station, along with subsequent work emceeding many blues festivals and club shows. "Blues Deluxe," which is now on the air every Saturday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at www.wuml.org.

MARILYN STRINGER

Marilyn Stringer is among the most prolific photographers currently documenting the blues. She began covering the blues in earnest in 2006 and has since become the head photographer for some of the top blues festivals in the U.S. Stringer has also published

three books in her Blues in the 21st Century series. She recently started her fourth book, Blues Souls, which will feature black-and-white photos of renowned blues performers.

THE SIERRE BLUES FESTIVAL

In 1995, Swiss native Silvio Caldelari established the Blues Bar music club in Sierre, Switzerland. Fourteen years later, Caldelari and a group of volunteers founded the Swiss Blues Society. After affiliating their new organization with The Blues Foundation, Caldelari's group decided to launch the first-ever Sierre Blues Festival. Since that inaugural event, the three-day festival has grown in popularity. Caldelari has continued to work with European blues leaders to nurture the European Blues Union and its partnership with The Blues Foundation.

FRANKY BRUNEEL

In 1982, at age 15, Franky Bruneel started his blues radio show, "Back to the Roots." His show ran on several local and national radio stations throughout Belgium, his native country. In 1991, Bruneel began organizing blues concerts and created a link that brought American artists to Europe for short tours. In 1995, Bruneel created a modest fanzine named after his old radio show. Back to the Roots is now one of the most important blues magazines in Europe.

RON WYNN

Blues journalist Ron Wynn began his career in the 1980s as the chief music critic for the Memphis Commercial-Appeal. He currently writes for the Nashville Scene, the Tennessee Tribune, the Tennessee Jazz and Blues Society, and Jazz Times, among other publications and websites. Wynn's liner notes for From Where I Stand—The Black Experience in Country Music received a Grammy nomination in 1998. Wynn has contributed to three books, including Ain't But a Few of Us: Black Music Writers Tell Their Story, slated for publication in December.

BLUE FRONT CAFE

Located on Highway 49 in Bentonia, Miss., the Blue Front Café has been the home of the Bentonia School blues tradition since 1948, when Jimmy "Duck" Holmes' family opened the café. The café is still open daily and presents live blues performances every weekend. As the headquarters of the Bentonia Blues Festival, which Holmes started in 1972, the Café has become a beacon for blues fans. A series of videos shot at the Café for The Black Keys' Mississippi hill country-inspired album, Delta Kream, put even more focus on the Blue Front as a musical mecca.

TEDDY'S JUKE JOINT

Teddy's Juke Joint, owned by Lloyd "Teddy" Johnston, sits at the end of a dirt road off Highway 61—one of the last remaining juke joints on the Chitlin' Circuit. Johnston was born in this shotgun shack in the woods north of Baton Rouge. After touring the country in the '50s and '60s as a DJ, he returned to Zachary, La. in the early '70s to expand his childhood home into a bar. He allowed gospel groups to practice in the building, and when they began to form blues bands of their own and needed a place to perform, Teddy's Bar & Lounge became Teddy's Juke Joint.

Memberships fuel the music. Please renew or join NOW. Makes a great gift!

New Merchandise now available. Polos, Tees, Ballcaps and more.
Check out our store on-line or at the Merch table at our shows.

So many ways to listen to the Blues... Do you know about these regional radio shows?

- WNCW 88.7 Spindale, NC
- WNRN Virginia Fresh Roots & New Blues Saturday 6 to 8PM
- WSGE 91.7 Dallas NC Monday- Thursday 7 to 10 PM
- WYTX 98.5 Rock Hill SC Sunday 8 to 10 PM
- WSNC 90.5 Winston-Salem, NC Sunday 1 to 5AM.

Who did we miss? Send us your personal favorite to cltbluessociety@gmail.com

Logo Contest 30th Anniversary of CBS

Submit as many entries as you would like using the submission form on the [web page](#). Students and Artists encouraged!

Get Creative and see your art on our
30th Anniversary Merch & Swag!

Contest begins April 1, 2022 and ends February 1, 2023.



MORE LOCAL SHOWS AND FESTIVALS



Have shows to contribute?
Send a PM or email to
CLTbluessociety@gmail.com
Be sure to join our Charlotte
Blues Society
[Group page on Facebook.](#)


**TOSCO MUSIC OPEN
MIC**
The Evening Muse
Wed. Jan 4





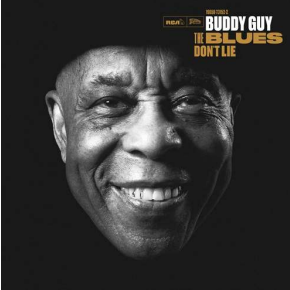
**Blues Sunday
Woody Wood
&
Blues deLuxe band
Jan. 8, 2023
Neighborhood Theatre**

<p>THE CHARLOTTE MUSIC COMMUNITY HANG (VAPA) HOSTED BY NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE TUESDAY JAN. 3, 2023 NO CHARGE BUT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.</p>	<p>GA-20 Evening Muse Jan. 17, 2023</p>	<p>Oliver Wood Trio Neighborhood Theatre Jan. 17, 2023</p>
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 <p><i>Kenny Wayne Shepherd</i> <i>Knight Theater</i> <i>Charlotte, NC</i> <i>Sat. Jan 28</i></p>	<p>KEB' MO' with special guest Anthony D'Amato KNIGHT THEATER www.tix.CarolinaTix.org Feb. 11, 2023</p>	
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<p>International Blues Challenge Memphis TN Jan 24-28, 2023 Tickets on sale at www.blues.org</p>	
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	<p>Joe Bonamassa Ovens Auditorium Charlotte, NC Friday March 3, 2023 https://www.boplex.com/events/joe-bonamassa</p>
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 <p>Popa Chubby Neighborhood Theatre Charlotte, NC Tuesday March 21, 2023</p>	<p>BLOOD BROTHERS FEATURING MIKE ZITO & ALBERT CASTIGLIA NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE CHARLOTTE, NC WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 2023</p>	<p>BUDDY GUY WITH SPECIAL GUEST KINGFISH OVENS AUDITORIUM CHARLOTTE, NC MARCH 22, 2023</p> 
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Tosco Music Party
Knight Theater
Sat. April 1, 2023

Charlotte Blues Society
30th Anniversary Party
Sunday April 2, 2023
Stay tuned for details



***TOMMY CASTRO & THE
PAINKILLERS
CHARLOTTE, NC
NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE
MONDAY, APR 10, 2023***

Year end giving on your to do list?

Can't make it to a show?

Consider donating to your favorite Non-Profit.

(Hint, the initials are CBS)



(paypal)

Your support goes directly to Keeping the Blues Alive in Charlotte.

In memory of Bill Buck...

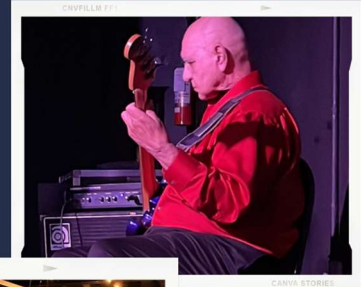
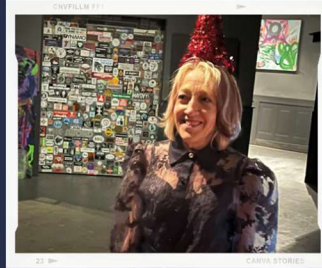
May he rest in peace.

Bill Buck, Founder
Charlotte Blues Society
A Generous
Genius, Educator,
Entertainer and
Friend

1962-2022

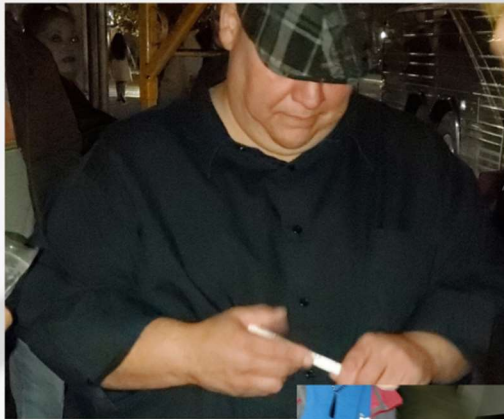


Thanks to our sponsors and members for making the 2022 Holiday Bash so much fun



CHRISTMAS BASH WITH JOHNNY BURGIN

Tab Benoit



Charlotte Blues Society

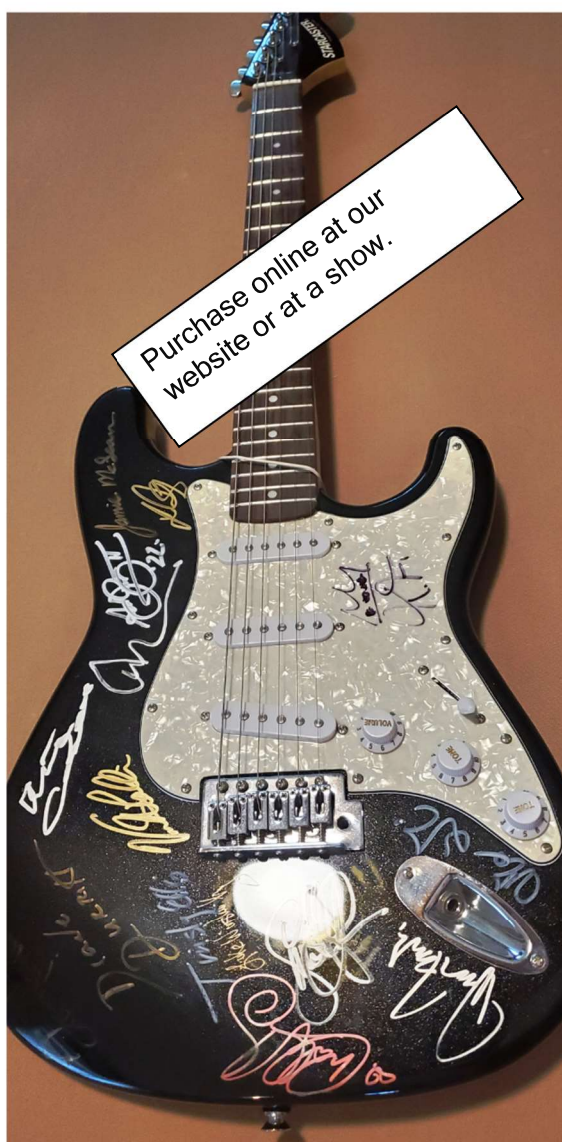
2022-23 Guitar Raffle \$10 per ticket

Fender Guitar filled with autographs from your favorite Blues performers.

Drawing to be held April 2023 at the 30th anniversary show.

Signatures include:

- Eddie Turner
- Christone
- “Kingfish” Ingram
- Vanessa Collier
- Laura Chavez
- Samantha Fish
- Jamie McLean
- Albert Cummings
- Robert Finley
- Tinsley Ellis
- Luke Winslow-
King



- Roberto Luti
- Diane Durrett
- Albert Castiglia
- Damon Fowler
- Tommy Castro
- Danielle Nicole
- Davy Knowles
- Southern Avenue’s
- Ori Naftaly
- Robert Finley
- Joanne Shaw Taylor
- Tab Benoit
- Joey Spina
- Corey Duplechin
- plenty more to come...



www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

It's that time of year again. Award season 2023 is ramping up.

Here are the 2023 Grammy Nominations for American Roots Music

BEST AMERICAN ROOTS PERFORMANCE

For new vocal or instrumental American Roots recordings. This is for performances in the style of any of the subgenres encompassed in the American Roots Music field including bluegrass, blues, folk or regional roots. Award to the artist(s).

- 🎵 Someday It'll All Make Sense (Bluegrass Version)
Bill Anderson Featuring Dolly Parton
- 🎵 Life According To Raechel
Madison Cunningham
- 🎵 Oh Betty
Fantastic Negrito
- 🎵 Stompin' Ground
Aaron Neville With The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 🎵 Prodigal Daughter
Aoife O'Donovan & Allison Russell

BEST AMERICANA PERFORMANCE

For new vocal or instrumental Americana performance. Award to the artist(s).

- 🎵 Silver Moon [A Tribute To Michael Nesmith]
Eric Alexandrakis
- 🎵 There You Go Again
Asleep At The Wheel Featuring Lyle Lovett
- 🎵 The Message
Blind Boys Of Alabama Featuring Black Violin
- 🎵 You And Me On The Rock
Brandi Carlile Featuring Lucius
- 🎵 Made Up Mind
Bonnie Raitt

BEST AMERICAN ROOTS SONG

A Songwriter(s) Award. Includes Americana, bluegrass, traditional blues, contemporary blues, folk or regional roots songs. A song is eligible if it was first released or if it first achieved prominence during the Eligibility Year. (Artist names appear in parentheses.) Singles or Tracks only.

- 🎵 Bright Star
Anais Mitchell, songwriter (Anais Mitchell)
- 🎵 Forever
Sheryl Crow & Jeff Trott, songwriters (Sheryl Crow)
- 🎵 High And Lonesome
T Bone Burnett & Robert Plant, songwriters (Robert Plant & Alison Krauss)
- 🎵 Just Like That
Bonnie Raitt, songwriter (Bonnie Raitt)
- 🎵 Prodigal Daughter
Tim O'Brien & Aoife O'Donovan, songwriters (Aoife O'Donovan & Allison Russell)
- 🎵 You And Me On The Rock
Brandi Carlile, Phil Hanseroth & Tim Hanseroth, songwriters (Brandi Carlile Featuring Lucius)

2023 Grammy Nominations for American Roots Music (Cont.)

BEST AMERICANA ALBUM

For albums containing greater than 50% playing time of new vocal or instrumental Americana recordings.

- 🎵 In These Silent Days
Brandi Carlile
- 🎵 Things Happen That Way
Dr. John
- 🎵 Good To Be...
Keb' Mo'
- 🎵 Raise The Roof
Robert Plant & Alison Krauss
- 🎵 Just Like That...
Bonnie Raitt

BEST BLUEGRASS ALBUM

For albums containing greater than 50% playing time of new vocal or instrumental bluegrass recordings.

- 🎵 Toward The Fray
The Infamous Stringdusters
- 🎵 Almost Proud
The Del McCoury Band
- 🎵 Calling You From My Mountain
Peter Rowan
- 🎵 Crooked Tree
Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway
- 🎵 Get Yourself Outside
Yonder Mountain String Band

BEST TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM

For albums containing greater than 50% playing time of new vocal or instrumental traditional blues recordings.

- 🎵 Heavy Load Blues
Gov't Mule
- 🎵 The Blues Don't Lie
Buddy Guy
- 🎵 Get On Board
Taj Mahal & Ry Cooder
- 🎵 The Sun Is Shining Down
John Mayall
- 🎵 Mississippi Son
Charlie Musselwhite

2023 Grammy Nominations for American Roots Music (Cont.)

BEST CONTEMPORARY BLUES ALBUM

For albums containing greater than 50% playing time of new vocal or instrumental contemporary blues recordings.

- 🎵 Done Come Too Far
Shemekia Copeland
- 🎵 Crown
Eric Gales
- 🎵 Bloodline Maintenance
Ben Harper
- 🎵 Set Sail
North Mississippi Allstars
- 🎵 Brother Johnny
Edgar Winter

BEST FOLK ALBUM

For albums containing greater than 50% playing time of new vocal or instrumental folk recordings.

- 🎵 Spellbound
Judy Collins
- 🎵 Revealer
Madison Cunningham
- 🎵 The Light At The End Of The Line
Janis Ian
- 🎵 Age Of Apathy
Aoife O'Donovan
- 🎵 Hell On Church Street
Punch Brothers

BEST REGIONAL ROOTS MUSIC ALBUM

For albums containing greater than 50% playing time of new vocal or instrumental regional roots music recordings.

- 🎵 Full Circle
Sean Ardoin And Kreole Rock And Soul Featuring LSU Golden Band From Tigerland
- 🎵 Natalie Noelani
Natalie Ai Kamauu
- 🎵 Halau Hula Keali'i O Nalani - Live At The Getty Center
Halau Hula Keali'i O Nalani
- 🎵 Lucky Man
Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Chas
- 🎵 Live At The 2022 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival
Ranky Tanky

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

BUDDY GUY - *THE BLUES DON'T LIE*

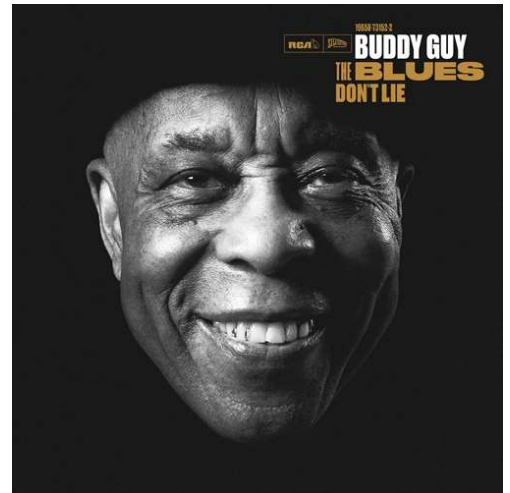
RCA Records

www.buddyguy.com

Buddy Guy's been striking gold consistently since teaming with producer/percussionist Tom Hambridge for the first time in 2008, winning three Grammys and a fourth nomination. And the 86-year-old treasure should strike the motherload again and add another statuette to his trophy case with this hourlong, 16-song pleaser.

Recorded in Nashville and backed by several Music City talents, Buddy's at the absolute top of the game on guitar and vocals throughout this intimate, soothing stunner, which features guest appearances from Mavis Staples, Elvis Costello, James Taylor, Bobby Rush, Jason Isbell and Wendy Moten.

The autobiographical "I Let My Guitar Do the Talking" sets the tone to open. Other choice cuts include "Blues Don't Lie," "The World Needs Love," "We Go Back," "Follow the Money," "What's Wrong with That," "House Party," "Back Door Scratchin'," "Rabbit Blood," "Last Call" and a solo acoustic take on Slim Harpo's "I'm a King Bee."



ANNIKA CHAMBERS & PAUL DESLAURIERS - *GOOD TROUBLE*

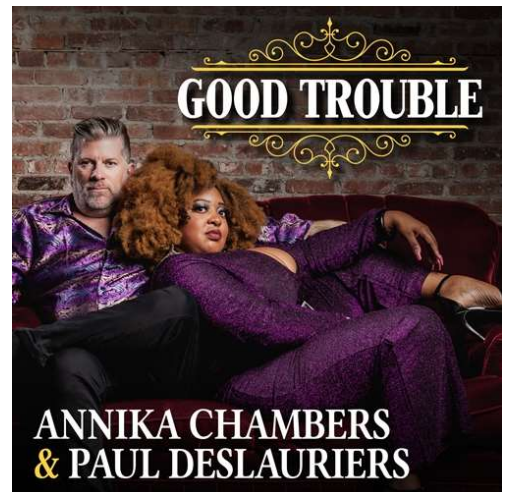
VizzTone Label Group VT-BL005

www.annikaandpaul.com

Stars in their own right and life partners, too, Houston-born soul-blues powerhouse Annika Chambers and Canadian-bred blues-rock firebrand Paul DesLauriers abandon their usual comfort zones and join forces for the first time to speak out against social injustice through a smoking-hot mix of clever originals and timely covers.

Conceived as "pandemic therapy," the newlyweds - one a two-time BMA female soul artist of the year, the other a two-time Maple Blues entertainer of the year honoree - team with former IBC winner JP Soars on second guitar and drummer Chris Peet in a set recorded at Peet's studio in South Florida, where they all reside.

Aggressive and pleasingly consistent from the jump, give a listen to "You've Got to Believe," "Stand Up," "Isn't It a Pity," "Need Your Love So Bad," "We've Got the Blues," "Money's Funny," "Mississippi Queen" and "I Need No Power."



STEVE HILL - *DEAR ILLUSION*

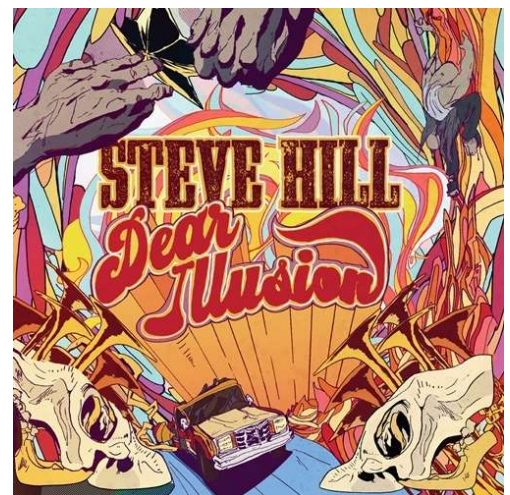
No Label Records NLR122

www.stevhillmusic.com

One of the most accomplished singer-songwriters North of the Border, Steve Hill has been working as a one-man band for most of the past decade but works in full-band format and simply blazes on this disc, which celebrates his 25th year as a performer.

Recorded just prior to the pandemic and originally scheduled for release when the world shut down, Hill handles bass, mandolin and harp here, too, with backing from The Devil Horns and seven-time British Blues Awards drummer-of-the-Year Wayne Proctor, who mixed and mastered the set.

Blues-rock at its best, you'll enjoy "All About the Love," "Keep It Together," "Everything You Got," "Dear Illusion," "Don't Let the Truth Get in the Way (of a Good Story)," "So It Goes," "She Gives Lessons in Blues" and "Until the Next Time."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



VANESSA COLLIER - *LIVE AT POWER STATION*

Phenix Fire Records

www.vanessacollier.com

The reigning BMA contemporary female artist of the year and a two-time horn player honoree, too, Vanessa Collier shows why she's one of the most popular acts on the blues scene today with this searing 70-minute set, which was captured live at Power House Studios in New York City just prior to last year's awards.

A giant on the saxophone who graduated from Berklee College of Music less than a decade ago and doubles here on resonator guitar, Vanessa penned seven of the ten tracks and puts her own, modern touch on familiar covers by Ann Peebles, Chris Smither and Bono, too.

If you love your blues with the heat on high, you'll adore "The Run Around," "Whiskey and Women," "I Can't Stand the Rain," "Sweatin' Like a Pig, Singin' Like an Angel," "When It Don't Come Easy," "Icarus," "Tongue Tied" and "Two Parts Sugar, One Part Lime."



MATT LOMEO - *WHEN YOU CALL*

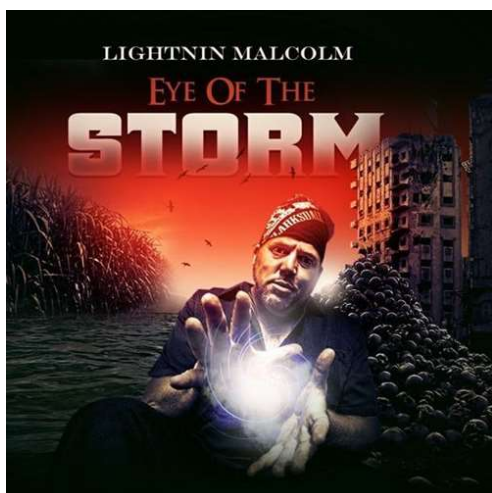
Self-produced CD

www.mattlomeo.com

Harp player Matt Lomeo debuted as a festival performer in his native New York at age 10 in 1999 and is a veteran of the Memphis and L.A. blues scenes, but finally makes his debut as a front man with this all-original, 13-tune set of contemporary blues and roots.

Now based in L.A., Matt possesses a honeyed voice and musical sensibilities colored by his love of Junior Wells, George "Harmonica" Smith, Frank Sinatra, Elvis and Marvin Gaye. A clever, soulful lyricist, too, he's joined a lineup that includes Teresa James and sidemen from the Eric Burdon and J.J. Cale bands, including by Grammy-nominee Terry Wilson who produced.

Lomeo's runs on the reeds shine on "One More 1&1" to open. Give a listen to the Latin-tinged "Unsentimental You," "She Was the Best," "When You Call," "Got a New Woman," "Take the Boulevard," "Why Do I Cry" and "Took My Bar and Left Me."



LIGHTNIN' MALCOLM - *EYE OF THE STORM*

Whiskey Bayou Records WSK2002

www.lightninmalcolm.com

Carrying forward the Hill Country tradition he learned playing alongside R.L. Burnside, T-Model Ford, Big Jack Johnson and as a member of the North Mississippi Allstars, Lightnin' Malcolm stretches the boundaries of the music a bit on this hard-driving CD, but don't fret! The juke-joint feel that it delivers will keep you dancing all night long.

Hypnotic and trance-inducing, Malcolm doubles on lead and rhythm guitar throughout, Malcolm infusing contemporary feel to his usual traditional. He's backed throughout by drummer Brady Blade, and Tab Benoit (drums) and Dumpstaphunk bassist Tony Hall sit in, too.

The set opens with a plea for divine intervention through "Lord Above" before steady grooves drive "Crawlin' Baby," "Eye of the Storm," "Modern Reminder," "Latest Devil," "Lift Us Up," "Louisiana Breeze," "Too Many Nights" and "Let's Get Together."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

GRANT DERMODY - *BEHIND THE SUN*

Self-produced CD

www.grantdermody.com

A master harp player, Seattle native Grant Dermody delivered a tribute to acoustic Piedmont blues legend John Jackson on his most recent previous CD, but he plugs in and turns up the heat on this one, a 15-cut pleaser that delivers a big tip of the capot to his adopted home, Louisiana.

Now based out of Lafayette, Grant resumes his longtime partnership with four-time Grammy winning guitarist Dirk Powell here in a set that features contributions from accordionist Corey Ledet, bassist Lee Allen Zeno and drummer Gerard St. Julien with additional vocals from Teka Briscoe and Ahyris Nevarre.

A cover of Muddy Waters' "Trouble No More" adopts a swampy two-four rhythm to open. Other choice, often languorous cuts include "Don't Boss Me," "Clotilda's Got Soul," "Louisiana Blues," "Tell Me," "She Comes Running," "Time Ain't Due," "Mr. Jeff," "Learn to Treat Me Right" and "So Many Roads."



MANNY FIZZOTTI - *NOBODY UNDERSTANDS*

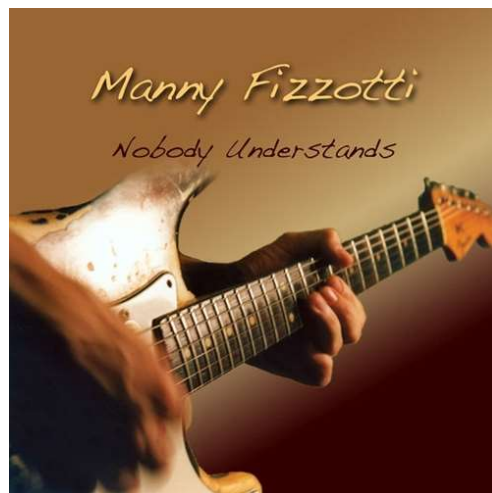
RockHattle Music RM038

www.emanuelefizzotti.com

One of the most stylish guitarists in European blues, London-based Manny Fizzotti is an Italian-born honors graduate from Los Angeles' prestigious Guitar Institute of Technology, and he delivers a masterclass of technique with this mix of straight-ahead blues, jazz, swing and more on his latest CD.

A pro since the early '80s, Manny penned nine of the 12 tracks here, and he joins forces with 2019 BMA harp player of the year Giles Robson and drummer Brendan O'Neill who rose to fame backing Rory Gallagher and now keeps time for Mud Morganfield.

If you like your blues steeped with jazz, you'll enjoy "Crying Shame," "Useless," "Nobody Understands," "Sliding Away," "Dodgy Dudes," "She's Gone," "Turn Me On" and covers of the Bobby Troup standard, "Route 66," and John Coltrane's "Naima."



DAVE KEYES - *RHYTHM BLUES & BOOGIE*

Blue Heart Records BHR 037

www.davekeys.com

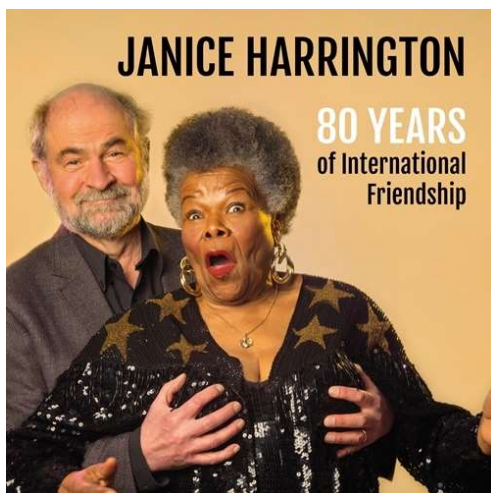
A three-time BMA nominee who's toured with Popa Chubby on keys for the past decade, native New Yorker Dave Keyes shines like a diamond every time he takes the spotlight on his own. And this disc, which pays tribute to his musical influences, is a rollicking winner on all counts.

This is the sixth solo effort for Dave, who's pedigree includes long stints with Odetta, David Johansen, Bo Diddley, Sleepy LaBeef and gospel star Marie Knight. Doug MacLeod, Early Times, Chubby and others drop in for guest appearances with Bernard "Pretty" Purdie and Frank Pagano handling percussion.

Consisting of nine originals and one tasty cover, you're sure to enjoy "Shake Shake Shake," "That's What the Blues Are For," "Blues and Boogie," "Ain't Going Down," "WBGO Boogie," "Not Fighting Anymore," "Invisible Man" and "7 O'Clock Somewhere."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



JANICE HARRINGTON - *80 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP*

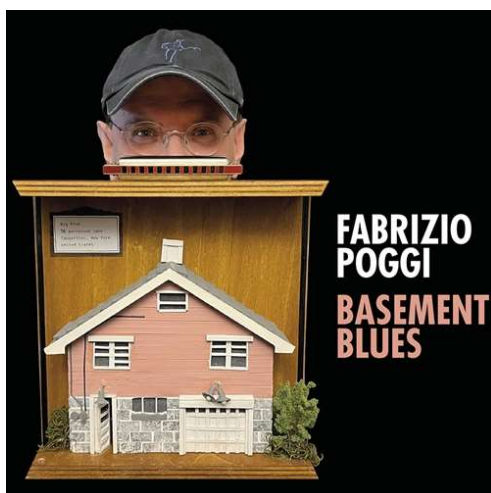
Hip & Happy Records

www.janice-harrington.com

Based in Germany but born in Ohio, vocalist Janice Harrington proves you're only as old as you feel as she celebrates her 80th birthday with this entertaining album with timeless appeal. A former USO entertainer during the Vietnam War era, she's sassy, classy and a little bawdy, too, across 67 minutes.

The daughter of a gospel singer, Janice has appeared on TV's *Days of Our Lives* and performs with big bands around the world. The 16 songs here are culled from four decades of studio sessions with backing from top-notch Norwegian, Danish, Austrian and German ensembles throughout.

Sometimes bawdy, always blue and always classy, too, you'll enjoy "Old Age," "Seven Day a Week Man Blues," "Wheeler Dealer," "Too Soon to Tell," "Mud in His Face," "Making Plans," "Mirror Image" and "What a Wonderful World."



FABRIZIO POGGI - *BASEMENT TAPES*

Appaloosa Records

www.chickenmambo.com

One of the foremost proponents of traditional blues in Europe Italy-based harp player Fabrizio fell in love with the music after viewing *The Last Waltz* concert documentary in the '70s, and he pays tribute to The Band and his blues forebears, too, with this deep azure set, which includes guest spots from Guy Davis, Ronnie Earl and Band founder Garth Hudson.

A 2018 Grammy nominee with Davis for *Sonny & Brownie's Last Train*, this package is a collection of never-previously-released originals and standards captured for other projects across the past 15 years, all of which are tied together by Fabrizio's fluid harp runs, and all of them are well worth your ear. Warm and soothing throughout, give a listen to "Precious Lord," "Little Red Rooster," "Midnight Train," "John the Revelator," "Your Light," "Black Coffee," "Blues for Charlie," "Boogie for John Lee Hooker," "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean," "I'm on the Road Again" and "Hole in Your Soul."

MUD MORGANFIELD - *PORTRAIT*

Delmark Records 876

www.delmark.com

When you're the son of blues royalty, fans expect something special each time you step in the studio, and that's what Mud Morganfield delivers with this disc, his debut recording for Delmark, delivering a joyous combination of old-school Windy City blues and a dash of gospel, too.

The eldest son of Muddy Waters, Mud's joined here by his dad's former bandmate Rick Kreher and Billy Flynn on guitars along with bassist E.G. McDaniel, drummer Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith, harp players Bob Corritore and Harmonica Hinds and the late Barrelhouse Chuck on keys for a set that includes eight originals that flow smoothly with six well-chosen covers.

Morganfield takes you to church for the autobiographical "Praise Him" to open. Other must-listens include "Son of the Seventh Son," "Love to Flirt," "Catfishing," "Health," "Loco Motor," "Money (Can't Buy Everything)," "Midnight Lover" and "Blues in My Shoes."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

STARLITE CAMPBELL BAND - *LIVE! 2*

Supertone Records STR20-D

www.starlite-campbell.com

Currently based in Portugal, the Starlite Campbell Band doesn't let the grass grow under their feet for long - something they prove on their latest CD, a powerful set of blues-rock recorded at three different sites in their native UK, where they've also lived in six different settings in the past decade.

A husband-wife partnership composed of bassist Suzie Starlite and guitarist/vocalist Simon Campbell, one of the top session guitarists in Britain, the duo keep the heat on high with support from keyboard players Jonny Henderson (Kirk Fletcher) and Christian Madden (Liam Gallagher) along with Steve Gibson (Jack Bruce) on drums.

Full of deep grooves, searing tonality and powerful freeform jams, you'll enjoy "I Like It Like That," "Walkin' Out the Door," melodies of "Peter Gunn/Shakin' All Over" and "Brother/I Need a Light," "Still Got Time to Be My Baby" and "Sex Is the Key."



LEE O'NELL BLUES GANG - *THIS IS US*

Self-produced CD

www.leeonellbluesgang.com

A four-piece band from the Vosges region of eastern France, the Lee O'Neill Blues Gang are a hard-to-define, eclectic unit that delivers one clever, interesting CD here. Fronted by Gipsy Bacuet on honeyed vocals and keys, this set alternates from hard-edged blues-rock to soft, jazz- and soul-infused blues. Their second album since forming in 2019, they're anchored by guitarist Lionel Wernert, who penned all 14 tracks, and features guest appearances from childhood friend and French blues six-string giant Fred Chapellier.

"Come What May," "As If It Was Enough," "Be a Man" and "Don't Hate Me Because I'm Happy" burn to open before "Boogie Woogie Broke Down Love" swings relentlessly. And give a listen to "Let the Good Times Roll," "Of Course," "You Don't Know Who I Am" and "Just Need a Prayer."



ANGELA STREHLI - *ACE OF BLUES*

Antone's/New West Records

www.angelastrehlimusic.com

One of the most important vocalists in the Texas music scene since the '60s, Lubbock native Angela Strehli hasn't been in the studio very often since teaming with Clifford Antone to co-found his long-running nightclub in Austin. But blues lovers can dance with joy with the release of this CD, her first since *Blue Highway* in 2005.

Now based in Marin County, Calif., where she and her hubby own the popular nightspot Rancho Nicasio, Angela spent her early years performing with W.C. Clark, Stevie Ray Vaughan and several legendary Chicagoans, and her rich, emotive alto shines here with backing from Mighty Mike Schermer on guitar, Mike Emerson and Jim Pugh on keys among other top talent.

Bobby "Blue" Bland's "Two Steps from the Blues" opens. Other pleasers include "Person to Person," "I Love the Life I Live," "You Can Never Tell," "Trying to Live My Life Without You," "More and More," "I Wouldn't Mind Dying" and "SRV," her sweet tribute to a long-lost friend.



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

A member of the CBS board since 2018, Marty Gunther is no stranger to the area or the Blues. A native Rhode Islander who attended App State, his first exposure to the music came through Muddy Waters at Newport in 1960. His complete baptism into the Blues came in 1966 when Howlin' Wolf was crawling across the Newport stage and singing "Moaning at Midnight." A longtime member of the Chicago blues community, where many international stars were close friends, he was taught by harmonica payer Sugar Blue, and co-founded the Nuclebusters, one of the hardest working bands in South Florida, where he resided previously. In addition to writing the "Red Hot 'n Blues Reviews" column and contributing occasional articles, Marty's an in-demand journalist across the Blues spectrum. Senior writer at Blues Blast Magazine, he's also a contributor to The Groove, the monthly newsletter of the Crossroads (Ill.) Blues Society, and his CBS reviews appear regularly in Chicago Blues Guide.

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Keepin' The Blues Alive

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY (CBS) is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the American Blues tradition through the presentation of concerts, forums, educational programs and support of local musicians in Charlotte and surrounding areas,

CBS NEEDS YOU !

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMITTEE, BOARD POSITION, OR EVENT, OR SIMPLY MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION. JUST A FEW HOURS PER YEAR WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Your memberships fund our shows. We are a 501(c)3 organization and count on members to contribute.

Like us on [Facebook](#). Be sure to post blues related articles on the [CBS group page](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#).

Know of an upcoming show? Share the details with us so we can spread the word!

All are welcome to our monthly Board meetings. These are typically the 3rd Tuesday of the month at a local Charlotte establishment. Next meeting is Jan. 17 at 3:30-5:30PM. Location TBD.

Tell you friends and family, neighbors and co-workers. With your help, we can continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you!

The CBS Board



newsletter edited by Bonnie Spalding